English Curriculum Overview

Bassingbourn Community Primary School · 2026 to 2029

Writing is taught using Pathways to Write, and reading in Key Stage 2 using Pathways to Read. Each unit is built around a high-quality book. Our classes are mixed-age, so units follow a two-year rolling programme. Phonics has its own overview.

Writing: Reception

	AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2	SPRING 1	SPRING 2	SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2
Every year	**We're Going to Find the Monster** Malorie Blackman and Dapo Adeola Retell the story and write labels	**Festivals** Jane Bingham Design and label a snowman	**Let's All Creep Through Crocodile Creek** Jonny Lambert Create a story map	**Sunny and the Birds** Wendy Meddour Retell and rewrite the story	**The Whale Who Wanted More** Rachel Bright Write a friendship story	**Supertato** Sue Hendra and Paul Linnet Write a wanted poster describing a character

Writing: Years 1 and 2 (mixed classes; the two years then alternate)

YEAR	AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2	SPRING 1	SPRING 2	SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2
2026–27	**Troll Swap** Leigh Hodgkinson Character story	**The Great Fire of London** Emma Adams Fact sheet	**The Dragon Machine** Helen Ward Adventure story	**My Name is Not Refugee** Kate Milner Recount from a character's point of view	**Tidy** Emily Gravett Letter in role	**Grandad's Secret Giant** David Litchfield Moral story
2027–28	**Meesha Makes Friends** Tom Percival Diary entry	**Katie in London** James Mayhew Non-chronological report	**The Lion Inside** Rachel Bright Journey story	**Beegu** Alexis Deacon Own version of the story	**Somebody Swallowed Stanley** Sarah Roberts Information text	**Goldilocks and Just the One Bear** Leigh Hodgkinson Traditional tale

Writing: Years 3 and 4 (mixed classes; the two years then alternate)

YEAR	AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2	SPRING 1	SPRING 2	SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2
2026–27	**Counting on Katherine** Helaine Becker Fact file	**Greek Myths** Jean Menzies Adventure mini-book	**Our Tower** Joseph Coelho Adventure journal	**Wisp: A Story of Hope** Zana Fraillon Narrative from a character's viewpoint	**Where the Forest Meets the Sea** Jeannie Baker Information board	**A Stage Full of Shakespeare Stories: Julius Caesar** Angela McAllister Playscript
2027–28	**Coming to England** Floella Benjamin Letter in role	**Winter's Child** Angela McAllister Fantasy story based on a fable	**Stone Age Boy** Satoshi Kitamura Historical story	**Big Blue Whale** Nicola Davies Informative article	**Journey** Aaron Becker Adventure story	**Zeraffa Giraffa** Dianne Hofmeyr Tourism leaflet

Writing: Years 5 and 6 (separate classes in 2026–27, then mixed classes from 2027–28; the two years then alternate)

YEAR AND CLASS	AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2	SPRING 1	SPRING 2	SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2
2026–27 Year 5	**Queen of the Falls** Chris Van Allsburg Series of diary entries	**The Lost Happy Endings** Carol Ann Duffy Traditional tale	**Arthur and the Golden Rope** Joe Todd-Stanton Myth	**The Darkest Dark** Chris Hadfield Biography	**The Paperbag Prince** Colin Thompson Persuasive leaflet	**Bold and Brave Women from Shakespeare** Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Soliloquy
2026–27 Year 6	**King Kong** Anthony Browne Action-packed story ending	**The Place for Me** Dame Floella Benjamin and others Information leaflet	**Shackleton's Journey** William Grill Journal entry	**The Day War Came** Nicola Davies Persuasive letter	**Manfish** Jennifer Berne Biography	**Sky Chasers** Emma Carroll Adventure story
2027–28 Years 5 and 6	**King Kong** Anthony Browne Action-packed story ending	**The Place for Me** Dame Floella Benjamin and others Information leaflet	**Shackleton's Journey** William Grill Journal entry	**The Day War Came** Nicola Davies Persuasive letter	**Manfish** Jennifer Berne Biography	**Sky Chasers** Emma Carroll Adventure story
2028–29 Years 5 and 6	**Queen of the Falls** Chris Van Allsburg Series of diary entries	**The Lost Happy Endings** Carol Ann Duffy Traditional tale	**Arthur and the Golden Rope** Joe Todd-Stanton Myth	**The Darkest Dark** Chris Hadfield Biography	**The Paperbag Prince** Colin Thompson Persuasive leaflet	**Bold and Brave Women from Shakespeare** Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Soliloquy

Reading: Years 3 and 4 (Pathways to Read; the two years then alternate)

YEAR	AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2	SPRING 1	SPRING 2	SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2
2026–27	**Rise Up** Amanda Li	**Greek Myths** Jean Menzies	**Fantastic Forests** The Literacy Company	**Ariki and the Island of Wonders** Nicola Davies	**Fantastically Great Women Who Saved the Planet** Kate Pankhurst	**A Stage Full of Shakespeare Stories** Angela McAllister
2027–28	**The Sea Book** Charlotte Milner	**Ice Palace** Robert Swindells	**The Egyptian Cinderella** Shirley Climo	**This Morning I Met a Whale** Michael Morpurgo	**Usborne Illustrated Atlas of Britain and Ireland** Struan Reid	**The Iron Man** Ted Hughes

Reading: Years 5 and 6 (Pathways to Read; separate classes in 2026–27, then mixed classes from 2027–28)

YEAR AND CLASS	AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2	SPRING 1	SPRING 2	SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2
2026–27 Year 5	**Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls** Elena Favilli and Francesca Cavallo	**Hansel and Gretel** Carol Ann Duffy	**Odd and the Frost Giants** Neil Gaiman	**Exploring Space** The Literacy Company	**The Last Wild** Piers Torday	**Bold and Brave Women from Shakespeare** Shakespeare Birthplace Trust
2026–27 Year 6	**When We Were Warriors** Emma Carroll	**The Place for Me** Dame Floella Benjamin and others	**Survivors** David Long	**The Explorer** Katherine Rundell	**Great Adventurers** Alastair Humphreys	**Sky Chasers** Emma Carroll
2027–28 Years 5 and 6	**When We Were Warriors** Emma Carroll	**The Place for Me** Dame Floella Benjamin and others	**Survivors** David Long	**The Explorer** Katherine Rundell	**Great Adventurers** Alastair Humphreys	**Sky Chasers** Emma Carroll
2028–29 Years 5 and 6	**Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls** Elena Favilli and Francesca Cavallo	**Hansel and Gretel** Carol Ann Duffy	**Odd and the Frost Giants** Neil Gaiman	**Exploring Space** The Literacy Company	**The Last Wild** Piers Torday	**Bold and Brave Women from Shakespeare** Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

Before Pathways to Read, children follow Read Write Inc. Phonics and Comprehension. Alongside these units, every class enjoys a daily Class Reader from our Reading Spine.